

Appl. No. 10/038,209
Amdt. dated 05/28/2004
Reply to the Office Action of 03/29/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. By this amendment, Claims 3, 19, 23, and 28, have been amended. After this amendment, Claims 2-25 and 27-43 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

(1) The Examiner objected to Claims 2-25 and 27-43 because the preamble should state the intended use or purpose of the invention. The Examiner also pointed out that the amendment to the preamble will not limit the scope of the claims unless the preamble provides antecedents for ensuing claim terms that will then limit the claim accordingly.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 3, 19, 23, and 28, to comply with the Examiner's objection of the informalities, with the understanding that, since the added preamble language does not create antecedent basis for any of the pre-existing claim terms that were already allowable prior to this final amendment to the preamble, the amended claim language will not create further limitation for the scope of the claims. Support for the added language in the preamble may be found in the original patent application. For example, see page 2, lines 5 to 7, in the *Field of the Invention* section. No new matter was added.

In view of the amendment to Claims 3, 19, 23, and 28, which now recite in the preamble that an intended purpose is for delay correlation analysis for VHDL modeling, and in view of the remarks above, Applicants believe that the objection of Claims 2-25 and 27-43 because of informalities, as discussed above, has been overcome. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the objection of Claims 2-25 and 27-43, and allow this patent application to issue as a U.S. patent.

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Allowable Subject Matter

(2) Applicants wish to acknowledge that the Examiner objected to Claims 2-25 and 27-43 because of formal matters, as addressed above, but indicated that this application is in condition for allowance if appropriate correction were made.

Applicants have amended Claims 3, 19, 23, and 28 to comply with Examiner's request.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 2-25 and 27-43 are now in allowable form, and kindly request that the Examiner allow these claims to issue.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as full and complete response to the Official Action mailed March 29, 2004, and it is submitted that Claims 2-25 and 27-43 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objection is requested. Allowance of Claims 2-25 and 27-43 is earnestly solicited.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory surrendered by amendment are limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine

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of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and the attorneys.

The present application, after entry of this amendment, comprises forty-one (41) claims, including four (4) independent claims. Applicants have previously paid for forty-three (43) claims including four (4) independent claims. Applicants, therefore, believe that no additional fee is currently due.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities that can be corrected by Examiner's amendment, or that in any way it would help expedite the prosecution of the patent application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (561) 989-9811 is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1556.

In view of the preceding discussion, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and re-examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

5/28/04

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